

Our commitment to a strong beginning:

As we approach the first stage of implementation of California's new kindergarten eligibility dates and "Transitional Kindergarten," we acknowledge what is widely understood about young children.

We know that young children:

- are curious and inquisitive
- are eager to learn and explore
- are diverse
- have varying gifts and abilities
- have a variety of life experiences
- are developing and can change rapidly
- benefit from varying types of support and challenge

It is important that young children entering school:

- be regarded as unique individuals
- not be labeled or categorized based solely upon their date of birth
- not be limited by low-expectations or lack of opportunity to learn
- benefit from frequent interaction with their teachers
- be active, including structured engagement using expressive language throughout the day
- experience an enriched learning environment
- experience a comprehensive curriculum including the language arts, mathematics, science, social science, visual and performing arts, and physical and social skill development

These assumptions and commitments are fundamental to providing high quality learning experiences for each child each day.

What is Transitional Kindergarten?

California law defines Transitional Kindergarten as "the first year of a **two year** kindergarten program...." Further, "TK shall not be construed as a new program...." (Education Code 48000[c])



Who are Transitional Kindergarten Students?

Students with birthdates
September 2 - December 2

These students will be identified as TK students and placed in classes including K and TK children.

How long is the TK instructional day?

The day is the same length as for kindergarten, 201 instructional minutes.

Are there standards for TK?

No. The State of California provides no TK standards nor does it recommend a different curriculum. Kindergarten standards and curriculum shall guide teachers as they plan for instruction, making modifications as needed to ensure age and developmental appropriateness for each child.

What materials will teachers use to modify the curriculum for TK children?

Kindergarten teachers are provided with state-adopted grade level materials. These materials include pieces to modify curriculum for all students.





Will reporting of student progress for TK children utilize a report card specific to TK?

Yes. A Transitional Kindergarten report card will be used to report student progress toward attainment of kindergarten standards.

Can TK children be promoted to first grade after the first year of kindergarten?

Yes. While all TK children are eligible to experience a two year kindergarten, children may be promoted to first grade by their kindergarten teacher as appropriate. (See VUSD Promotion/Retention Handbook).



Transitional Kindergarten

The first year of a ***two-year*** Kindergarten Program



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